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Chair: Ms. Miculescu ..... (Romania)

Contents

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Ukraine) said that the demand for United Nations peacekeeping operations, which were already nearing historic levels, was likely to continue, or even increase, over the next few years. The New Horizon Progress Report No. 2 could be helpful in identifying the most urgent challenges. A first priority was the strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping capabilities, primarily through ensuring aviation mobility of operations. The shortage of military helicopters, the most critical asset for carrying out the mandates of increasingly complex missions, especially in vast theatres of operation, exemplified the mismatch between resources and mandates. In that regard, the proposals by the Secretariat should be based on the relevant recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as to the way in which military helicopters were reimbursed and operated so as to offer genuine incentives to contributors.

2. Such issues could only be resolved through global partnership and triangular cooperation between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat. To that end, troop- and police-contributing countries must be given a much stronger voice in the decision-making process at all stages of peacekeeping operations. Expert-level meetings served little purpose if such countries were absent; in other cases, those countries were faced with a fait accompli, learning about decisions directly affecting their personnel or assets from Security Council resolutions on the very day of their adoption.

3. Ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and their legal protection must be the central element of any peacekeeping operation. Legal safeguards, however, did not equal lack of accountability; Ukraine fully supported the zero tolerance policy regarding abuses by peacekeepers. Troop- and police-contributing countries must have every legal right and means to take part in the investigation of crimes committed against their peacekeepers.

4. The nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding was far from clear; there was a need to define the exact roles and responsibilities of deployed peacekeepers in peacebuilding efforts, in particular in terms of division of labour in multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support strategy for peacekeepers could provide guidance on prioritizing, sequencing and planning the critical early peacebuilding tasks that fell to peacekeepers.

5. Over the past 20 years, Ukraine had contributed over 34,000 peacekeepers to over 20 United Nations peacekeeping missions; it was resolved to maintain that commitment to United Nations peacekeeping.

6. **Mr. DeLaurentis** (United States of America) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to play an indispensable role in preventing the recurrence or escalation of armed conflicts. His delegation endorsed the need to maintain focus on the New Horizon reform agenda, to increase the participation of women, to improve the ability of the United Nations to plan and manage complex missions, and to strengthen the global partnership that underpinned the success of United Nations peacekeeping. There was a collective responsibility to ensure that the debate on how to meet the challenges faced in preventing and responding to armed conflict did not impede efforts to restore stability and establish sustainable peace.

7. The United States had trained over 140,000 peacekeeping troops since 2005 and had supported the training of an additional 41,000 peacekeepers in partner countries. It had facilitated the deployment of over 138,000 peacekeepers from 31 countries to 19 peacekeeping operations around the world. It had met its obligations under the United Nations peacekeeping budget and made a substantial additional commitment of US$ 23 million over the past two fiscal years to help enhance the operational capacity of police personnel.

8. Peacekeeping efforts had resulted in several significant accomplishments over the past year in South Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There had also been progress in a number of areas that would help missions do their jobs better, faster and more cost-effectively. The new procedures for intermission cooperation would allow critical assets to be shared more quickly. The global field support strategy was already beginning to show results. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to develop additional regional service centres, drawing on the

lessons learned from the Entebbe service centre, and would continue to work with the Secretariat to ensure that each of the centres reached full operational potential. It also welcomed the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues.

9. More clarity was needed about how about how the operational resources of missions corresponded to their mandated tasks and their ability to fulfil their mandates. It was crucial to ensure that missions had the political will to carry out their mandates; force commanders must be confident that the contingents under their command could and would carry out orders. Force generation continued to be slow and cumbersome; his delegation would particularly welcome the comments of regional and subregional organizations in that regard.

10. More must be done to combat sexual misconduct on the part of all categories of peacekeeping personnel; there was still an unacceptable level of reports of sexual misconduct. The United Nations must ensure that violators were not permitted to serve again in the United Nations. Full dialogue on sexual misconduct, including dialogue with troop-contributing countries, was essential.

11. **Mr. Sorreta** (Philippines) said that, despite its limited resources, his Government had contributed thousands of men and women to at least 23 peacekeeping missions in 15 countries over the past 50 years. Its commitment to United Nations peacekeeping was grounded in its national policy to uphold multilateral peacekeeping, collective security and the rule of law. That commitment had been reinforced in 2002 with the establishment of an interagency mechanism to coordinate the Philippines' involvement in United Nations peacekeeping. His Government was currently preparing a roster of suitable and qualified experts in specialized fields of civilian peacekeeping. It was encouraging the deployment of female peacekeeping personnel and fully supported the integration of a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations; 10 per cent of the nearly 900 Filipino personnel in peacekeeping operations were women.

12. His Government strongly advocated continuous training and development of peacekeepers and in June 2011 had hosted a regional training of trainers course on preventing and investigating sexual and gender based crimes in post-conflict societies. The course was designed to give United Nations police officers the knowledge and skills necessary to assist their counterparts in host countries. Ensuring the safety of peacekeepers was imperative; they must be adequately armed and equipped to protect themselves in high-risk areas. The increased demand for peacekeepers was not often matched with the necessary capabilities and resources; careful planning and execution of Security Council mandates was essential.

13. His Government appreciated opportunities to engage with other relevant actors and stakeholders in peacekeeping, especially personnel on the ground, and looked forward to more regular interaction with them. Filipino Major-General Ecarma, the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), had been active in sharing his broad experience in the field within the United Nations and with military personnel in the Philippines.

14. **Mr. Sefue** (United Republic of Tanzania) said effective peacekeeping must remain true to its guiding principles, namely consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. His Government fully supported the role of peacekeepers as early peacebuilders, a role that must remain at the centre of all peacekeeping missions through all phases. As peacekeeping operations continued to grow exponentially, it must be ensured that they remained consistent with the original purpose as set forth in the United Nations Charter, namely, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

15. It was important to enlarge the base of troop-contributing countries, to ensure that peacekeeping was well resourced, and to resist classifying some countries as troop-contributing and others as troop-funding. In that regard, while the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues was welcome, a lasting resolution had to be based on unity of purpose.

16. Peacekeeping mandates must be clear; the use of ambiguous terminology, such as "robust peacekeeping", created confusion, endangering clarity of command and control in the field and leading to unwarranted recriminations. Three regional conferences on the use of force in peacekeeping operations, held in Abuja,

Buenos Aires and Jakarta, had addressed the issue of clarity; the Secretariat should circulate the reports on the outcomes of those conferences and refer them to the relevant bodies for further consideration.

17. Ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel must remain a top priority. Clear, realistic and achievable mandates were essential, and peacekeepers must be adequately resourced and realistically tasked to avoid operational overstretch. Critical assets, including military helicopters, needed to be provided in a sustainable manner.

18. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations needed to refine its working methods; his delegation supported the proposals by Canada and Morocco in that regard.

19. Peacekeeping must be aligned as far as possible with national and regional efforts in support of an inclusive political process and outcome. Sustainable conflict resolution and reconciliation must be anchored within the country in question, and could not be imposed on a people. Such national ownership would facilitate the timely transitioning from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

20. **Mr. Al-Hajiri** (Qatar) stressed the importance of upholding the founding principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It was therefore important, when adopting and implementing mandates, to take into account the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular full respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, and to ensure that mandates were not diverted from their initial objective. His Government had participated in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), including by providing specialized officers and logistical support.

21. Peacekeeping operations were no substitute for addressing the root causes of conflicts. It was necessary to bear in mind the importance of coordination and consultation with the host country, including confirmation of the authority and sovereignty of the State over its territory.

22. The United Nations must ensure the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, who often worked in harsh and risky conditions. Host countries must investigate crimes committed against peacekeepers and prosecute the perpetrators in accordance with their national laws, the status-of-forces agreements and the provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

23. It must be ensured that the human, financial and logistical resources available for each peacekeeping mission were compatible with their mandates and the objectives to be achieved. Shortages of resources not only undermined the chances of success of peacekeeping missions, but also put them at risk.

24. It would be advantageous for developed countries whose military personnel were highly trained, professional and experienced to contribute troops to peacekeeping operations, instead of relying exclusively on less experienced military personnel from developing countries. Peacekeeping personnel needed to be familiar with the culture and language of the host country, so as to facilitate communication and interaction with the local population. The selection of experts and civilian personnel must be characterized by transparency and clarity. The experts assigned to peacekeeping operations in Arab countries should have a knowledge of the recent history of the host countries and must speak Arabic.

25. Bearing in mind that 87 per cent of peacekeeping troops came from developing countries, it was important to involve troop-contributing countries at all stages of planning and deployment. Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) must be effectively implemented in order to strengthen coordination and communication between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, enhance transparency and trust, and take into account the concerns of host countries.

26. The Committee must cooperate with the Security Council and the Fifth and Sixth Committees in order to address shortcomings on the issue of criminal responsibility, not only that of peacekeepers but that of persons who committed crimes against them. That issue should be included in the memorandums of understanding between the United Nations and the host States. Peacekeepers must fully respect the codes of conduct and their home countries must hold them accountable if they violated codes of conduct or committed crimes punishable by law. The United Nations must fulfil its responsibilities, not only with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, but also with regard to other offences or acts of aggression and crimes, in line with recent amendments to the memorandums of understanding.

27. His delegation supported the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat to develop new working methods for the Special Committee; however, it was important to follow the guidance of the Committee at all times.

28. **Mr. Cancela** (Uruguay) said that his Government was committed to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping. Only close collaboration among all stakeholders would ensure success in increasingly complex mandates. Despite the challenges faced, progress had been made in such areas as endorsement of the New Horizon process, protection of civilians, the launch of the global field support strategy, and better triangular communication between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. Yet that progress could be jeopardized by the global economic crisis that had already adversely affected peacekeeping budgets, operations and even conceptual aspects of peacekeeping, since there was strong pressure to reduce costs while maintaining or even increasing services. While there was room for improvement, it was important not to lose sight of the positive cost-benefit ratio of peacekeeping operations compared with other national and regional arrangements.

29. Complex missions could not be sustainable unless the necessary resources were allocated to ensure their operation and the Organization updated its system for securing both human and material resources. At the same time, while financial issues needed to be discussed in the appropriate forums, it was not advisable, either from the point of view of the major financial contributors, or from that of countries like Uruguay which provided personnel, for the substantive discussion on peacekeeping to focus exclusively on financial resources. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the agreement reached within the Fifth Committee and had high expectations for the contribution of the Senior Advisory Group.

30. A capacity-based approach was essential for promoting a strong global partnership. The progress made by the Secretariat in the three projects it was carrying out was encouraging; his delegation reiterated the importance of ensuring consistency and working to achieve concrete improvements in unsustainable situations, such as the lack of military utility helicopters. Finally, his delegation was committed to transparency and accountability and would continue to require the highest standards of conduct of its personnel on the ground.

31. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that United Nations peacekeeping operations were a vital element of the maintenance of international peace and security. Accordingly, it was important to draw lessons from the more than 60 such operations conducted over past decades, to ensure that those conducted in the future were better designed. In that context, it should be borne in mind that peacekeeping operations were also political actions and should be more focused on conflict prevention and the mediation of disputes, thereby promoting political processes and national reconciliation.

32. He stressed the need for United Nations peacekeeping operations to adhere to the principles of neutrality, consent of the parties and the non-use of force, except in self-defence and the exercise of their mandate. Accordingly, peacekeeping operations should comply strictly with the mandate conferred upon them by the Security Council, respect the sovereignty of the parties, guard against their own members becoming involved in conflicts, desist from attempts at regime change and ensure that activities conducted ostensibly to protect civilians did not in fact cause more civilian casualties.

33. With the growth of peacekeeping operations, the need for adequate logistical support was also increasing. There was currently a disconnect between the mandate vested in such operations and the human, material and financial resources assigned to them to perform it. In that context, he stressed the need to avoid waste and duplication and conveyed his country's support for a consolidated and coordinated approach to peacekeeping efforts, through the creation of global and regional service centres and the formulation of a global logistics support strategy.

34. Peacekeeping operations were not a panacea and could not themselves solve the problems underlying conflicts: for that, a deeper political process was required, to promote genuine national reconciliation and to tackle the root causes of conflicts, in particular, their economic and social development aspects. Accordingly, the Peacebuilding Commission should be empowered to play a stronger role and the United Nations specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and regional organizations should be more actively involved in peacebuilding work. In particular, given the preponderance of United Nations peacekeeping missions on the African continent, particular assistance should be rendered to the African

Union, which was in acute need of logistical, financial and technical support to discharge its own peacekeeping mandate. In conclusion, he reaffirmed China's commitment to support for United Nations peacekeeping work, noting that, with more than 2,000 peacekeepers deployed in various operations, China was the seventh largest contributor to international peacekeeping efforts.

35. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that peacekeeping operations were the most effective means of resolving conflicts, on the basis of the principle of collective security. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) had demonstrated the ability of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate under Chapter VII of the Charter, working in full cooperation with the legitimate authorities of the country and respecting the will of the people. His country was deeply grateful to the Organization for its assistance in resolving the Ivorian crisis.

36. The widespread danger faced by civilian population during the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, during which 3,000 people had died, illustrated the urgent need for the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to protect civilians. The Security Council had acted on that basis in adopting resolution 1975 (2011), which entrusted UNOCI with a robust mandate to destroy the heavy weapons used by the troops of the former President to massacre the civilian population. During the crisis, the inexplicable hesitations and reservations on the part of certain members of the Security Council had helped strengthen the defiant attitude of the camp of the former Ivorian President, whose troops had continued to perpetrate atrocities against the civilian population and attacks against United Nations civilian personnel and UNOCI troops. The experience of post-electoral violence had also highlighted the lack of cooperation between UNOCI and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), even though a framework for such cooperation existed under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Had that framework been used, by involving ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), there would have been a deterrent effect which would have helped to protect the civilian population. The members of the Security Council, in particular permanent members, must bear in mind their responsibility to protect endangered civilian populations and the civilian and military personnel of peacekeeping operations and must base their decisions on respect for the wishes of the peoples. Respect for the spirit and letter of the Charter was vital to ensuring the credibility, effectiveness and impartiality of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

37. The situation in Côte d'Ivoire was returning to normal; the focus now was on peace consolidation and post-crisis reconstruction and everything was being done to ensure that the legislative elections, scheduled for 11 December 2011, would be free, transparent and credible. His Government was confident that it would be able to count on bilateral and multilateral support, above all that of the United Nations in accordance with Security Council resolution 2000 (2011). Security sector reform continued to be a priority, particularly in view of the security needs on the long western border with Liberia. His Government welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's intention to combine the resources of UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), in close cooperation with ECOWAS and other partners, to confront that threat. Summit meetings of heads of State from the region had been held, as well as a meeting of the ECOWAS military chiefs of staff.

38. Côte d'Ivoire was one of only 19 countries that was up to date in its contributions to all United Nations budgets. It had recently started providing police personnel to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and had offered permanent rent-free headquarters to UNOCI. His Government was prepared to house the regional support centre for West Africa as well.

39. **Mr. Ng** Chin Huat (Malaysia) said that as a long-standing troop-contributing country, Malaysia reiterated its firm belief in the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. It shared the view that peacekeeping was a partnership, and that burden sharing was essential. It was crucial for Member States to continue to provide human, financial, and logistical resources to ensure the timely and successful implementation of peacekeeping operations. Economic and social progress was possible only if peace and stability were maintained. Malaysia supported the approach to peacekeeping as a form of early peacebuilding and was undertaking activities among local populations, bearing in mind, however, that socio-economic development plans were still the sole responsibility of host countries.

40. His delegation was concerned about the increasing threats to the security and safety of United Nations peacekeepers and strongly condemned all acts of violence against them. As a troop-contributing country, Malaysia reaffirmed its commitment to the policy of zero tolerance for all forms of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuses. It would continue to emphasize the issue of misconduct in training sessions at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre and to participate actively in matters relating to doctrinal and curricular development for the United Nations police and Formed Police Units.

41. **Ms. Mørch Smith** (Norway) speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that while progress had been made in the restoration of peace in a number of countries, United Nations peacekeeping missions were facing profound challenges, starting with ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. The Nordic countries, as troop- and police- contributing countries, needed to be confident that everything was being done to strengthen field security. High risks could be tolerated, but leniency in risk management could not. Lack of security undermined the performance of peacekeepers and their capacity to implement their mandate, including the mandate to protect civilians.

42. The Nordic countries supported the ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of United Nations peacekeepers to protect civilians, notwithstanding the primary responsibility of national governments and regardless of the source of the threat. The consensus reached during the most recent session of the Special Committee provided a very good basis on which to build. The newly developed training package on protection of civilians should be fully used. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States must also ensure the effective use of operational guidance on the prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict. It was deplorable that United Nations personnel continued to breach the zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. The Nordic countries welcomed the initiative to develop new recommendations in that regard, while recognizing the responsibility of troop-and police-contributing countries to do their part.

43. Financial constraints made it an urgent priority to work smarter and to do more with less, building on the reform initiatives and strategies which had been developed. The Nordic countries shared the vision of a United Nations that should "deliver as one", with the integrated mission as a key concept. They welcomed the reported progress of the New Horizon pilot projects to define capability standards and develop guidance material; the projects should be followed up by the development of performance standards for all relevant peacekeeping units.

44. The Nordic countries commended the strategy on early peacebuilding for peacekeepers and urged that the World Bank and the United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes which had been involved in developing the strategy should also be included in its implementation in order to ensure that the United Nations operated on the principle of comparative advantage. The progress reported in the implementation of the global field service strategy was commendable; the implementation of the recommendations made in the report of the Senior Advisory Group for the review of international civilian capacities (in document A/65/747-S/2011/85) would increase the ability of peacekeeping missions to assist with early peacebuilding. The Nordic countries fully concurred with the strong focus in that report on the importance of building and developing national ownership, particularly in highly sensitive areas such as security sector reform and the rule of law. Regional ownership, through regional policy frameworks such as the African Union, was a valuable supplement; African perspectives on security sector reform could help in adapting tools to a particular country context and thus contribute to the legitimacy, viability and sustainability of security sector reform support. Strong partnership between the actors involved was crucial to reaching common goals.

45. The recent award of the Nobel Peace Prize to three female leaders should inspire Member States to nominate more women for leadership positions in peacekeeping operations. More women were serving as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, and it would be a positive development for a women to be named as a force commander and for more women to serve as police commissioners. All leaders, both women and men, were responsible for ensuring full integration of the gender perspective in all peacekeeping activities, in the first place by implementing existing plans and strategies. The Nordic countries encouraged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue working closely with all relevant actors,

facilitated and supported by UN-Women, to pursue that agenda even further to the benefit of all.

46. **Mr. Bavaud** (Switzerland) commended the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, which had demonstrated that the United Nations was capable of reacting promptly to violence against civilians, and the establishment of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). it was important that clear priorities should be laid down, and that UNMISS be given the financial and human resources necessary for implementing its wide-ranging mandate. It was regrettable that there continued to be disagreements among Member States, particularly between those that funded peacekeeping operations and those that contributed personnel. While the discussions held in the working group on contingent-owned equipment, the Special Committee and the Fifth Committee were important, they had the unfortunate effect of complicating the debate on other challenges. Peacekeeping must remain flexible in order to adapt to changing realities and needs on the ground; in that regard the concept of global partnership was of fundamental importance.

47. His delegation welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement the recommendations in the report of the Senior Advisory Group for the review of international civilian capacities. It hoped that the process would result in substantial improvements on the ground, including a more agile and rapid management of existing capacities within the system and among Member States. It also welcomed the initial implementation of the global field support strategy, which should result in the timely deployment of missions and improve support for civilian personnel. In that regard, it encouraged transparent exchanges of views between the United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding communities.

48. The Special Committee's work on the protection of civilians could not be conducted in isolation. Coordination among all the parties involved, including humanitarian actors, was essential, and must take into account the principles of action of each party. The upcoming Security Council debate would afford delegations an opportunity to consolidate and develop the recommendations of Security Council resolution 1894 (2009).

49. His delegation attached great importance to improving the working methods of the Special Committee and welcomed the launching of an informal dialogue on the subject. Possible areas for improvement included the structure of the report, the role of the Secretariat and of the Bureau, and assistance for countries which found it difficult to participate in the proceedings. Some measures would be relatively simple to undertake, such as treating topics on a biennial basis.

50. **Mr. Kebret** (Ethiopia) said that his country had been a major troop- and police- contributing country since the 1950s, and more recently in the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA). Peacekeeping had become increasingly complex and the multidimensional challenges must be addressed comprehensively. It was critical that mandates, and any amendments to them, should be absolutely clear from the outset; they should reflect the realities on the ground, the intentions of the Security Council, and the views and capabilities of the troop- and police-contributing countries. There could be no "one size fits all" approach.

51. The triangular cooperation and consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries must be strengthened. Regular meetings between the Council members and troop- and police-contributing countries before mandate renewal would encourage meaningful discussion of operational challenges and mandate implementation on the ground and enable the Council to receive credible information from the field.

52. The need for the adequate and timely provision of financial, logistical, and human resources could not be overemphasized; there was an urgent need to address the mismatch between resources and mandates. The Organization should ensure that countries willing to contribute personnel had the necessary capacity to train and equip them and understood the administrative and logistical processes of peacekeeping operations. Direct support should be provided to troop-contributing countries and cooperation should be undertaken to increase the capabilities of regional organizations. Enhanced support for the comprehensive peacekeeping activities of the African Union was vital.

53. The United Nations must support its missions wholeheartedly, not only in words but also in deeds, and not only in terms of resources. Peacekeepers were demonstrating their commitment to safeguarding international peace and security, as well as to helping

civilian populations in hostile environments, and they should not be left in the lurch when situations became difficult. Ethiopia remained committed to further strengthening its participation in peacekeeping operations through the provision of troops, police, military observers and civilian personnel.

54. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that peacekeeping had become increasingly complex over the past two decades, as Member States sought to respond effectively to different types of conflicts, and as a result, there were ever greater constraints at both the qualitative and quantitative levels and a significant gap between ambitious goals and limited resources. In the face of those challenges, Member States needed to strengthen their capacities, improve dialogue and information-sharing, and ensure accountability at all levels. In that collective effort, responsibility must be shared, while promoting the triangular dialogue between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. The Security Council must ensure the provision of adequate human and material resources as well as a more frequent review of the mandates and resources of missions in order to respond to their changing needs and make the necessary adjustments, regardless of the complexity of a conflict or the difficulties encountered; the credibility of the United Nations was at stake.

55. Troop-contributing countries must be involved in the formulation and evaluation of mandates and should participate more actively in the process of reform of peacekeeping operations which was being conducted within the Special Committee. The role of the Special Committee, as the only forum bringing together contributing and host countries, must be enhanced, inter alia through the improvement of its working methods. His delegation hoped that the Senior Advisory Group would propose concrete measures to remedy the current situation regarding reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. The Secretariat should ensure good management, identify shortcomings and share with Member States the lessons learned from the performance evaluations of the various missions.

56. Despite the changing nature of conflicts, including the recurrent problem of non-respect for the commitments undertaken by parties, peacekeeping operations should continue to be conducted in accordance with the guiding principles, especially non-use of force except in cases of legitimate self-defence. Peacekeeping operations needed to be flexible and adaptable but that should not give rise to the excessive use of force; settlement efforts must include political negotiations and diplomatic action. The international community as a whole, and the Security Council in particular, should work to promote an evolution from a culture of reaction to one of prevention.

57. Partnerships and structured arrangements between the United Nations and regional organizations were essential for the creation of a system of independent capacities capable of reacting and meeting the needs of peacekeeping operations. His delegation stressed the important role played by Africa in the process of reform of peacekeeping operations and their regionalization. The African Union was continuing its work to develop a strategic vision and military capacities so that it could take on greater responsibility for peacekeeping. However, it faced a shortage of resources and capacity while the needs were increasing. The United Nations should make good on its commitment to support African peacekeeping efforts by providing predictable, viable and flexible financing which would promote the success of African Union missions deployed on the basis of mandates from the Security Council.

58. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that peacekeeping missions must be conducted in conformity with the Charter and the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. New concepts adopted to address emerging needs emanating from the complex and multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations must be consistent with the principles, guidelines and terminology governing peacekeeping agreed upon in relevant intergovernmental negotiating processes. Due attention should be paid to consistency in the use of agreed terminology. His delegation reiterated that the General Assembly and the Special Committee were the most competent forums to discuss issues and policies related to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

59. Peacekeeping missions must be provided from the outset with political support, optimal human, financial and logistical resources, and clearly defined and achievable mandates and exit strategies. They should not be used as a substitute for efforts to address the root causes of conflict, which should be dealt with in the appropriate social, economic and development bodies. If peacekeeping operations were to be

successful, there must be shared responsibility; communications should be established with all parties, especially troop-contributing countries, and there must be effective triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and host countries. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were interrelated and should not be perceived separately; the processes must run in tandem so as to facilitate economic revitalization, development and national capacity-building, on the basis of national ownership, and pave the way towards a seamless exit strategy; they must prevent the recurrence of armed conflict and achieve sustainable peace.

60. His Government stressed the importance of preventing peacekeeping from turning into peace enforcement. The use of force in peacekeeping operations must under no circumstances jeopardize the strategic relationship between the host country and the peacekeeping mission. The protection of civilians was the primary responsibility of the host country; where a mandate existed, a holistic approach was required encompassing the provision of timely and adequate resources, logistical support and training. The protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext for military intervention by the United Nations; such action could result in even more civilian casualties.

61. The role of regional arrangements and agencies should conform to Chapter VIII of the Charter and should in no way replace United Nations peacekeeping operations, circumvent full application of the guiding principles on peacekeeping, or absolve the Organization of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

62. **Mr. Alia** (Benin) said that the New Horizon Initiative and the global field support strategy would make peacekeeping operations more effective and coherent. The establishment of regional support centres, including the centres in Entebbe and in West Africa, would afford greater autonomy to missions deployed in Africa and enhance their ability to react quickly in complex, evolving situations. His Government strongly supported intermission cooperation, which had made it possible to find a solution to the shortage of personnel and resources during the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, and hoped that the experience would be extended to MONUSCO, the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and UNMISS to offset the absence of a reserve force to react when needed.

63. Consultations must continue so that all Member States had the same understanding of the concepts of robust peacekeeping operations and protection of civilians. Benin welcomed the increase in the rates of reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and hoped that the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries would also be increased; those rates should at the very least cover the expenses incurred by countries with limited resources. Peacekeeping operations must be provided with adequate human, material and financial resources. With the rapid increase in the number of operations, it was important to respect the recommendations of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (the Brahimi report) with regard to the establishment of new peacekeeping operations.

64. While his Government appreciated the efforts of non-governmental organizations which were truly working to alleviate the sufferings of civilian populations, it distanced itself from civil society organizations which, in order to obtain funding from their sponsors, made unsubstantiated and unfounded accusations against the troops which were carrying out their mandated tasks at the risk of their lives. Benin commended the careful approach followed by the Secretariat in conducting fact-finding investigations and in taking measures on the basis of zero tolerance of conduct that was incompatible with the objectives and codes of conduct of peacekeeping operations.

65. **Mr. Chipaziwa** (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation firmly believed that new concepts in peacekeeping operations should be implemented only after the Special Committee had comprehensively reviewed them. It wondered why some delegations were insisting that the New Horizon Initiative should be put into effect, as that was a non-paper which had not yet been endorsed by the General Assembly. There were already guidelines for peacekeeping operations, and haste was not productive. Security sector reform had been implemented before consensus had been reached and there was still no common understanding of what it entailed; it should never be taken for granted that a State would wish to invite States or regional groups to provide assistance in that regard. The same was true of the protection of civilians; a number of missions had been given a mandate to protect civilians before a civilian protection component had been added to training programmes; yet troop- and police-contributing countries were blamed if the protection of

civilians mandate was not properly implemented. Although the concept of robust peacekeeping was still being discussed in the Special Committee, it was already being implemented. His delegation believed that the concept was creating animosity between the troops and the civilians they were supposed to be assisting. There had been no explanation as to who would be targeted by robust peacekeeping; that meant that even sitting governments could be classified as "spoilers" which needed to be dealt with.

66. The safety and security of peacekeepers was of paramount importance; his delegation urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security to consider it more fully. It was unclear whether the rise in the cases of sexual abuse and exploitation could be attributed to poor predeployment training, the length of troop assignments or other factors. He urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to facilitate travel for troops to see their families while on leave and suggested that all leave should be taken in capital cities.

67. His delegation believed that all the problems faced in peacekeeping operations could be minimized with effective triangular cooperation, at all stages. Peacekeeping operations could not succeed unless tasks were matched with resources and capability and implementers were involved in planning and the formulation of mandates. His delegation welcomed the initiative to increase the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries; increased rates would boost the morale of troop- and police-contributing countries, in particular those of the Non-Aligned Movement which contributed the bulk of the personnel on the ground.

68. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that mediation and peacekeeping operations had contributed to a sharp decline in the number of armed conflicts since the end of the Cold War, United Nations peacekeeping operations were more cost-effective and successful than other operations and the opportunity cost was immeasurable in terms of financial and other resources. The future success of peacekeeping operations, which had become increasingly complex and multidimensional, would depend on political support and on adequate and timely provision of financial, logistical, and human resources. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues.

69. In order to ensure effective partnership and create ownership among all stakeholders, there must be broader political partnership between the United Nations and the host Government through dialogue and consensus. There must be effective and inclusive consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries; the views of troop-contributing countries must be taken into account when formulating or changing mandates and establishing timelines. There was a need for fair representation of troop-contributing countries in the decision-making process within the Secretariat and in the process of implementation of those decisions. The mandates of the peacekeepers must be clear, specific and well-defined, and supported by adequate resources to ensure safety and security as well as training. At the operational level, partnership should include adequate working conditions for peacekeepers, coordination among relevant stakeholders and between the United Nations and bilateral and regional stakeholders, and concerted efforts among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

70. Bangladesh had made significant contributions to international peace and security. Since 1988, it had been involved in 36 United Nations peacekeeping operations in 52 countries and had the most troops in the field. Though over 100 of its peacekeepers had lost their lives in the line of duty, their sacrifice had not been in vain and Bangladesh was committed to continuing its partnership with the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

71. **Mr. Kafeero** (Uganda) commended the New Horizon Initiative, which had afforded an opportunity to take a more concerted and comprehensive approach at all levels, and welcomed the global field support strategy, in particular the new global and regional approach.

72. It was important to recognize that an ineffective United Nations peacekeeping capability anywhere adversely affected the image of the Organization. The current mismatch between mandates and resources must be addressed, in particular in respect of air assets. In order for missions to be successful, the root causes of conflicts needed to identified and addressed at the planning stage; that required a clear understanding of the situation on the ground. Peacekeeping efforts

should support a political resolution of conflicts, respect the sovereignty of States, remain impartial and work with all parties to overcome their problems. More concerted efforts were needed to involve women in peacekeeping and peacemaking.

73. The triangular relationship between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries was crucial to ensure that political objectives and mandates were clear, credible and achievable. Cooperation among all stakeholders in peacekeeping operations must be strengthened. It was also important to work with regional and subregional organizations including the African Union, ECOWAS, the Southern African Development Community and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development. Relationships with such organizations must be consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter. His Government welcomed the support given to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and underscored the importance and urgency of providing predictable, reliable and timely resources to enable the mission to fulfil its mandate.

74. The early inclusion of peacebuilding activities, especially socio-economic reconstruction, in peacekeeping operations was vital for durable recovery and success. His delegation called on the Organization to ensure greater coherence in peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development activities.

75. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the lies and false allegations of the representative of the Israeli occupying Power at the previous meeting had been nothing but an attempt to conceal the fact that Israel's occupation of Arab territories had been the cause of four United Nations peacekeeping missions, including the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and an attempt to divert attention from Israel's State terrorism. Israel had repeatedly attacked both defenceless civilians and United Nations peacekeepers. To mention only a few examples, there had been the killing of peaceful demonstrators on 5 May and 5 June 1911, the deliberate attack on a compound of Fijian forces belonging to UNIFIL in 1996, which had killed 106 civilians, and the deliberate bombing of a truce monitoring post in southern Lebanon in July 2006. All those attacks were well documented and had been mentioned in United Nations reports. In addition, in September 2008 a Belgian officer had been killed while clearing unexploded cluster munitions left behind after the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 2006. It was worth noting that Israel had consistently refused to hand over its maps showing the locations of those munitions, thereby ensuring that there would be further innocent victims among civilians and peacekeepers.

76. The Syrian Arab Republic, for its part, enjoyed excellent relations with UNTSO and UNDOF, cooperating with them positively and constructively, as had been confirmed by various United Nations reports over the years and had also been acknowledged by senior UNTSO and UNDOF personnel.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.